

REMARKS

A. Status of the Claims

Claims 1-73 were pending at the time of the Restriction Requirement. Claims 1-31 and 43-73 have been canceled as being drawn to non-elected inventions. Claims 38, 39, and 42 have been amended to delete non-elected subject matter. Thus, claims 32-42 are currently under examination. Applicants reserve the right to prosecute claims directed to the non-elected inventions in continuing applications.

b. Response to the Restriction Requirement

In response to the Restriction Requirement that the Examiner imposed, Applicants elect the Group IV invention (*i.e.*, claims 32-42) without traverse.

In response to the further requirement to elect a single sequence identified by a specific sequence identification number, Applicants elect SEQ ID NO:8, with traverse. Applicants request that SEQ ID NO:8 and SEQ ID NO:6 be examined. SEQ ID NO:8 comprises the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:6. Therefore, claims directed to antigens of SEQ ID NO:6 and fragments thereof are encompassed within the claims directed to antigens of SEQ ID NO:8 or antigenic fragments thereof. No additional search is required to search SEQ ID NO:6 if SEQ ID NO:8 is searched. With regard to claim 39, Applicants further note that SEQ ID NO:5 and SEQ ID NO:7 are nucleic acid sequences corresponding to SEQ ID NO:6 and SEQ ID NO:8, respectively. Therefore, claim 39 has been amended to reflect the election.

C. Conclusion

Applicants believe this to be a full and complete response to the Restriction Requirement dated June 9, 2006. Should the Examiner have any questions, comments, or suggestions relating to this case, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned Applicants' representative at (512) 536-5654.

Respectfully submitted,



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